

~~SECRET//ORCON/NOFORN~~APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE  
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Classified by: UNSPECIFIED  
Reason: UNSPECIFIED  
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~~(S//OC/NF)~~ SUBJ: DISAFFECTION OF FOURTH BRIGADE COMMANDER OCHOA

Central Intelligence Agency

10 October 1985

Doc Number: [REDACTED] (b)(3) NatSecAct

~~(S//OC/NF)~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT, NOT  
FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE~~(U)~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY~~(U)~~ INFORMATION REPORT, NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTELLIGENCE. REPORT CLASS S E C R E  
T--WNINTEL--NOFORN--NOCONTRACT--ORCON~~(U)~~ EXCLUSIVE DISSEMINATION FOR ADDRESSEES LISTED AT END OF REPORT~~(U)~~ WARNING : ADDRESSEES ARE CAUTIONED TO INSURE STRICT ENFORCEMENT OF THE "NEED TO KNOW" PRINCIPLE  
AND MAINTENANCE OF AN EXACT RECORD OF ACCOUNTABILITY.~~(U)~~ REPORT CLASS S E C R E T--WARNING --INTELLIGENCE SOURCES OR METHODS INVOLVED--NOT RELEASABLE TO  
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INFORMATION CONTROLLED BY ORIGINATOR [REDACTED] ALL  
PORTIONS CARRY CLASSIFICATION AND CONTROLS OF OVERALL DOCUMENT [REDACTED] END OF (b)(3) CIAAct  
MESSAGE SECRET

SOURCE [REDACTED] (b)(1)

CONTEXT [REDACTED] (b)(3) NatSecAct

~~(S//OC/NF)~~ 1. IN A MEETING WITH CHIEF OF THE SALVADORAN ARMED FORCES JOINT GENERAL STAFF (EMCFA) GENERAL ADOLFO ONECIFERO ((BLANDON)) ON 7 OCTOBER 1985, COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH INFANTRY BRIGADE COLONEL SIGIFREDO ((OCHOA)) PEREZ ASKED TO BE EITHER REASSIGNED OR ALLOWED TO SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR RETIREMENT. OCHOA GAVE BLANDON TWO REASONS. THE FIRST WAS HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH THE MANNER IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS ARE BEING HANDLED FOR THE RELEASE OF PRESIDENT JOSE NAPOLEON ((DUARTE))'S KIDNAPPED DAUGHTER. THE SECOND WAS THE RESTRICTION WHICH DUARTE HAS PLACED ON OCHOA PREVENTING HIM FROM OPERATING IN CERTAIN AREAS WITHIN HIS MILITARY JURISDICTION WHILE THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDERWAY.

~~(S//OC/NF)~~ 2. DURING THE MEETING, OCHOA ALSO EXPRESSED STRONG OPPOSITION TO THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND PUBLIC SECURITY GENERAL CARLOS EUGENIO ((VIDES)) CASANOVA IN THE CURRENT CRISIS CREATED BY THE KIDNAPPING. OCHOA STATED THAT VIDES HAD NOT STOOD UP FOR MILITARY AS OCHOA BELIEVED HE SHOULD IN A RECENT MEETING BETWEEN MILITARY OFFICERS AND PRESIDENT DUARTE. OCHOA

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(S//OC/NF) DESCRIBED VIDES AS WEAK AND POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. [REDACTED] COMMENT: OCHOA WAS PROBABLY REFERRING TO THE 25 SEPTEMBER MEETING AT WHICH DUARTE PROVIDED A GENERAL BRIEFING ON THE KIDNAPPING SITUATION TO BRIGADE COMMANDERS AND OTHER SALVADORAN DEPARTMENTAL MILITARY COMMANDERS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OCHOA'S HAVING BEEN THE ONLY OFFICER TO EXPRESS OPPOSITION TO NEGOTIATING WITH THE KIDNAPPERS BOTH DURING DISCUSSION AMONG THE OFFICERS BEFORE DUARTE ARRIVED AND IN A LESS FORCEFUL FASHION DURING THE BRIEFING.)

(S//OC/NF) 3. OCHOA GAVE BLANDON THREE CHOICES: THAT OCHOA BE TRANSFERRED WITHIN EL SALVADOR; THAT HE BE TRANSFERRED OUT OF EL SALVADOR; OR THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO RETIRE. OCHOA STATED THAT OF THE THREE CHOICES, HE PREFERRED RETIREMENT.

(S//OC/NF) 4. OCHOA TOLD BLANDON THAT HIS FAMILY LIFE HAD SUFFERED AS A RESULT OF HIS ASSIGNMENT AS COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRIGADE. HE FELT AS THOUGH HE HAD NOT BEEN SUPPORTED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IN HIS EFFORTS TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY, WHOSE LIVES HE BELIEVED TO BE ENDANGERED BY HIS CURRENT ASSIGNMENT. HE CONTENDED THAT HIS FAMILY WAS FURTHER THREATENED BY THE INCREASED LIKELIHOOD OF ADDITIONAL KIDNAPPINGS RESULTING FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S WEAK STANCE IN DEALING WITH THE TERRORISTS WHO ABDUCTED THE PRESIDENT'S DAUGHTER.

(S//OC/NF) 5. BLANDON GAVE OCHOA UNTIL 12 OCTOBER TO RETHINK HIS POSITION BEFORE BLANDON WOULD TAKE ANY ACTION ON OCHOA'S REQUEST. OCHOA INDICATED THAT HE WOULD NOT DISCUSS THIS MATTER BEYOND HIS IMMEDIATE FAMILY FOR THE TIME BEING.

(S//OC/NF) 6. [REDACTED] COMMENT: IN JANUARY 1983, WHEN HE WAS MILITARY COMMANDER OF CABANAS DEPARTMENT, OCHOA CALLED HIS TROOPS IN AND CLOSED OFF THE BARRACKS IN PROTEST AGAINST THE THEN MINISTER OF DEFENSE, GENERAL JOSE GUILLERMO ((GARCIA)), WHO WAS EVENTUALLY REPLACED BY VIDES. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT OCHOA INTENDS TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION AGAINST VIDES AT THIS POINT.)

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